

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 05653 051659Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-01 ERDA-07

AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05

L-03 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /139 W

-----052219Z 069800 /75

R 051640Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2385

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LONDON 05653

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: THE OBSERVER ARTICLE

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY DAVID MARTIN APPEARED IN THE
APRIL 3 ISSUE OF "THE OBSERVER" UNDER THE HEADLINE,
KAUNDA MAY SUE BP AND SHELL.

BEGIN TEXT: ZAMBIA IS 'ACTIVELY CONSIDERING' LEGAL
ACTION AGAINST FIVE WESTERN OIL COMPANIES, INCLUDING
BRITISH PETROLEUM, FOR 'OILING RHODESIA'S WAR MACHINE' IN
ALLEGED DEFIANCE OF UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 05653 051659Z

IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA'S PRESI-
DENT, KENNETH KAUNDA, SAID HE FOUND IT 'INCREDIBLE' THAT
BRITAIN CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW THAT A BRITISH-OWNED COMPANY
WAS SUPPLYING OIL TO RHODESIA.

BP IS 48 PERCENT OWNED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

THE OTHER COMPANIES ARE SHELL, WHICH IS DUTCH-OWNED.

CALTEX AND MOBIL, WHICH ARE AMERICAN. AND THE FRENCH

COMPANY TOTAL.

RELIABLE SOURCES BELIEVE THAT A DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL TO GO AHEAD WITH LEGAL ACTION. MOVES COULD INVOLVE THE FREEZING OF COMPANY ASSETS IN ZAMBIA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHERE ACTIONS MIGHT BE BROUGHT.

PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID HE PROTESTED IN JANUARY TO MR. IVOR RICHARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA, WHEN HE VISITED LUSAKA AFTER THE RHODESIAN LEADER, IAN SMITH, CLOSED THE DOOR ON NEGOTIATIONS.

LATER HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MR. CALLAGHAN SAYING THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT KNEW NOTHING ABOUT BRITISH COMPANIES BREAKING SANCTIONS THROUGH OIL SUPPLIES AND PROMISING TO INVESTIGATE.

THERE HAD BEEN A CONSPIRACY AGAINST ZAMBIA AND AFRICA BY WESTERN OIL COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENTS, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID ANGRILY. ZAMBIA HAD BEEN GRATEFUL TO BRITAIN WHEN, AFTER THE RHODESIAN UDI, IT HAD HELPED AIRLIFT DESPERATELY NEEDED FUEL TO ZAMBIA. BUT THEN ZAMBIA HAD DISCOVERED A BRITISH OIL COMPANY WAS ALSO HELPING TO SUPPLY SMITH.

PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID LAST WEEK HE THOUGHT THAT THE FIRST PROSECUTIONS MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN ZAMBIA, AND THEREAFTER CASES COULD BE BROUGHT IN THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN AND FRANCE. 'BY STOPPING THE FLOW OF OIL TO RHODESIA WE CAN STOP THE WAR IN RHODESIA, SAVING THOUSANDS OF LIVES.'

COLIN LEGUM WRITES: A SPOKESMAN FOR SHELL INTERNATIONAL IN LONDON YESTERDAY DENIED THAT THE COMPANY WAS IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 05653 051659Z

ANY WAY EVADING SANCTIONS.

'OUR COMPANIES IN SOUTH AFRICA OPERATE UNDER GOVERNMENT DIRECTION AND ARE UNABLE TO REFUSE TO SUPPLY CUSTOMERS OR TO CONTROL THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION OF PRODUCTS SO SOLD,' THE SPOKESMAN SAID. 'ALL SHELL COMPANIES OPERATE UNDER THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THEY EXIST.'

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, DR. DAVID OWEN, WILL TAKE A FULL BRIEF WITH HIM ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND BRITISH OIL COMPANIES WHEN HE LEAVES NEXT WEEK FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND OTHER AFRICAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS. END TEXT

MILLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, SANCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON05653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770118-1020
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770487/aaaacxqzq.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c420efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2895434
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE OBSERVER ARTICLE THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY DAVID MARTIN APPEARED IN THE APRIL 3 ISSUE OF \"THE OBSERVER\" UNDER THE HEADLINE
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, (KAUNDA, KENNETH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c420efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009